

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:JCM
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLESTEEN, JR.
-----182108Z 128023 /75
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN PAK TONG-CHIN

1. IN LA TIMES ARTICLE APRIL 15 FONMIN PAK TONG-CHIN
CITED AS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT "SOUTH KOREAN AGENTS HAVE
'KEPT THEIR EYES ON A NUMBER OF SOUTH KOREANS' IN LOS
ANGELES AND ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES."

2. ARTICLE, BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN BY SAM
JAMESON, INCLUDES FOLLOWING DIRECT QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO
FONMIN:

QUOTE

FOR INSTANCE, IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA, WE HAVE A
SMALL NUMBER OF KOREANS WHO HAVE ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT
FORMS OF ANTI-(PARK) GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES. THROUGH SUCH
VERY HARMFUL ACTS, THEY HAVE CREATED UNDESIRABLE OBSTACLES
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IN THE WAY OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AND THE UNITED STATES. THEREFORE, OUR PEOPLE WERE
CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE. THEY WANTED TO
KNOW WHAT THESE PEOPLE WERE DOING, WHERE THEY GOT THEIR
MONEY FROM, AND WHAT SORT OF CONNECTIONS THEY HAD WITH
OTHER GROUPS OF PEOPLE" IN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.
"SOME OF THEM MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME ASSOCIATION WITH,

FOR INSTANCE, THE GENERAL ASSN. OF KOREAN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN, WHICH IS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH NORTH KOREA. THEN, IN NEW YORK, AS YOU KNOW, THERE IS A GROUP OF NORTH KOREANS (AT THE UNITED NATIONS) WHO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH SOME OF THESE KOREANS IN THE UNITED STATES.

"SO ALL THESE THINGS BECAME NATURALLY THE OBJECT OF OUR CONCERN. AFTER ALL, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THIS AFFECTS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. THEREFORE, SOME OF THESE PEOPLE THAT WE HAD AT OUR MISSIONS KEPT (THEIR) EYES ON A NUMBER OF SOUTH KOREANS." UNQUOTE

3. ON APRIL 18 EA/K DIRECTOR RAISED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WITH ROK POLCOUNS YU DURING LATTER'S CALL AT DEPARTMENT ON ANOTHER SUBJECT. HURWITZ NOTED THAT ROKG HAD LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ITS CITIZENS LIVING IN THE US.

USG COULD NOT, HOWEVER, TOLERATE ANY ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER ACTIVITIES ON THE PART OF KOREA OR ANY GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO RESIDENTS OR CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES. HURWITZ SAID THAT LA TIMES ARTICLE, WHETHER OR NOT IT ACCURATELY QUOTED FONMIN, OBLIGED US TO REITERATE THIS POSITION ONCE AGAIN TO ROKG. YU MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE POINTS IN PARA 3 ABOVE TO MOFA.

5. COPY OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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